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Address

*Of the Board of Managers of the American Colonization Society
to its Auxiliary Societies.*

October 31, 1831.—At a meeting of the Board of Managers of the Colonization Society, the following Address was submitted by Samuel Harrison Smith, Esq. Chairman of the Committee to whom the matter of preparing it had been referred, and after consideration, was adopted as follows.

The great and increasing interest felt by the American People in the colonization of free persons of color in Africa, while it justifies the most sanguine hopes of the authors of this scheme of Benevolence, claims from the Board of Managers a full and careful exposition of the manner in which the trust committed to them has been fulfilled. Resting entirely on public opinion, this opinion, to be correct, should be enlightened. Guided by this principle, the whole administration of the affairs of the colony at Liberia, from the inception of the plan, has been disclosed before the public in annual or more frequent statements, which have been widely disseminated throughout the whole extent of our country. In these statements will be found the original proposition for the formation of the society; the plan and Constitution adopted; the expeditions fitted out to Liberia; the perils that sprang up, with the holy and heroic enthusiasm which overcame them; the number of emigrants which successively left our shores for those of Africa; the policy pursued in administering the concerns of the colony; exhibiting the revised laws for the government of the colonists, the bonds in the United States, specifically stated, and their application, with all other information possessing sufficient interest to gratify a candid curiosity, or fit to insure a correct accountability. But this mass of information is spread through many volumes which few possess, and which those who do, may not, without considerable trouble be able to embody under distinct views. It is this task, so far at least as to present a condensed statement sufficiently comprehensive for present purposes, that the Board of Managers now undertake to discharge—a task which they consider at this time the more important, from the existence, in some parts of the United States, of misapprehension of the policy and measures of the Society.

As it would extend this communication to a length frustrative of its principal object, to give a more detailed record of the historical events of the colony, this will not be here attempted; but, whatever is considered necessary to the formation of a correct judgment on the object, policy, and measures of the society, will be supplied.

The society was established in the year 1817. At this time a deep interest was taken throughout the United States, in the fate of the people of color, as well those in a state of slavery as those who were free. The evil was universally admitted, the remedy doubtful and contested. So various and, indeed, discordant were the views entertained and urged on this head, and, in many instances, so angry the feelings excited, that discussion, so far from approximating different opinions to each other, every day widened the breach, and threatened an abortion of the various schemes of beneficence suggested. In this portentous state of things, the proposition to form a society on principles in which good men of all parties and sects might cordially unite, was received with almost universal favor. These principles were embodied in the plan of the American Society for Colonizing the Free People of Color of the United States. Its founders contemplated slavery as a great evil; but, looking at it in its practical aspects, perceived that, under our political institutions its alleviation or eradication called for the most deliberate and tender treatment, and would, in all human probability, be most effectually advanced under the moral influence of an enlightened public opinion, by those most deeply and directly interested in the subject. While, therefore, they determined to avoid the question of slavery, they proposed the formation of a colony on the coast of Africa, as an asylum for free people of color. The plan was founded on these considerations.

The amalgamation of the whites and blacks in one homogeneous community was deemed impracticable.

The nominal freedom and equivocal condition of the free people of color in the United States, would, it was believed, by their colonization in Africa, be converted into genuine liberty and real prosperity.

The most efficient instruments for subverting the slave trade would be supplied by such a colony.

Its existence would be the strongest inducement to the gradual and prudent manumission of slaves with a view to their colonization.

On this ground the society was established; on this ground it has been prosecuted, and, so long as its constitution endures, on this ground exclusively must its future measures be taken. Did, indeed, their consciences permit them to look for a rule of conduct in considerations of mere expediency, they might triumphantly point to the inestimable value of a plan, unquestioning in its origin; yet susceptible of boundless extension, which, in uniting a whole nation, already consisting of twelve millions, and doubling every twenty-five years, must, from the force of this union, at no very remote period, be able, by a moderate contribution of each individual, to

effect theughtest end. By this union will be perpetuated the germ and growth of an institution whose final expansion imagination can scarcely anticipate.

While, however, this principle must continue to be, as it has heretofore been, the guide and the guardian of this Society, it should not be inferred that there is, or can be, any influence exerted by it that can interfere in the slave-trade, or with the diffusion of principles or the prosecution of measures by others which may affect any other collateral objects. The emancipation of slaves, or the amelioration of their condition, with the moral, intellectual, and political improvement of people of color within the United States, are subjects foreign to the powers of this Society. To mingle them with the great and exclusive end of the Colonization Society, would be destructive to it. But it does not follow, because the Society does not directly encourage these objects, that it is either hostile to them, or that it exercises any deleterious influence in regard to them. As well might it be said that the constitution of the United States by abjuring any connexion with, or recognition of any particular religious tenets, exercised an influence unfriendly to true religion, whereas we all know that it is pre-eminently owing to this constitutional forbearance, that the purity of religion in this country is not alloyed by the prejudices and corruptions that have debased it in other portions of the globe. Let these interesting topics, on which such differences of opinion are honestly entertained, rest on their own foundations. It is for the Colonization Society, agreeably to its organic law, amidst these conflicting sentiments, to maintain, in its official relations, the strictest impartiality.

Under the guardianship of this fundamental principle, the Society was founded. It soon commanded the friendship and support of good and distinguished men from the South as well as the North, from the West as well as the East. A Washington, a Madison, a Crawford, a Marshall, a Clay, an Adams, a Carroll, and a host of other worthies, were soon enrolled among its friends. Even the Regs were lost in a general concentration of opinion.

Funds were raised by individual subscriptions, and agents appointed to select the most favorable region in Africa for a colony. Difficulties of the usual kind arose, but were overcome principally by moral means. Land for a colony at Liberia was selected, and fairly paid for. The first feeling of hostility, exerted by some of the natives, was exchanged for a confidence founded on a more correct knowledge of our object, and perception of the benefits bestowed upon them.

Towards the completion of the colony, nineteen expeditions have been fitted out, and 1,357 emigrants, including recaptured Africans, landed on the shores of Africa. To each family farm, or town-lot, or both, have been assigned. Three towns, viz.—those of Monrovia, Caldwell, and Millsburg, have been formed, and are, considering the infancy of the colo-

ny, in a flourishing state. Fortifications to defend it have been erected, and several small vessels for the same end, and to check the slave trade, have been furnished; a system of government, in which the colonists participate as much as prudence will permit, is in full and successful operation; various places of worship have been built, and freedom of religion secured; and a system of public schools devised, that promises to extend to all the colonists the blessings of education. The commerce of the colony may be said to be flourishing; an effect almost necessarily flowing from its exemption from restraint, and is rapidly extending; and the mechanic arts and agriculture, gradually progressive. The climate, for people of color, is decidedly salubrious, although, like all other low latitudes, settlers from other climates are often, for the first season, exposed to considerable mortality. As an evidence of the general salubrity, the existence of 2,000 colonists supersedes all doubts.

Upon the whole, it may, it is believed, be affirmed, that the *annals of mankind* scarcely present us with the instance of a colony, so remote in its position, that, in so short a time, has obtained such maturity. When to this it is added that the colony has been principally fostered by the contributions of individuals, its friends have abundant reason for congratulation at the success of a scheme, which, under the smiles of Providence, has so signally prospered.

On the score of salubrity the Board of Managers have felt the deepest solicitude. It should not be disguised that this is a point of cardinal importance, one full of moral and conscientious considerations, as well as pregnant with the eventual fate of the colony. In proportion to the strength of these considerations is the admitted obligation to the observance of the utmost candor. Whatever great final good may be promised, as guardians of a high public trust, they do not consider themselves as morally authorized, even as the means of its accomplishment, to sport with the lives of their fellow-men. Human life, in their opinion, is too precious to its possessor, to be sacrificed without the most weighty and sufficient reason. They, therefore, pledge themselves to the nation to declare, on this point, the truth, the whole truth. Appreciating its importance, they have used every means of obtaining correct information. The result is a conviction that the health of the colony is not inferior to the southern portions of the United States; that emigrants, after the first year's residence, do not incur a great mortality; that during the first season there is a more than ordinary mortality, and that, in this respect, there is a marked difference in favor of emigrants from the southern States and low lands over those who go from the North or mountain regions; that there is reason, from experience, to conclude, as the most fatal diseases in the colony yield readily to medicine, that a great portion of the mortality that has occurred has arisen from the temporary want of medical assistance, a circumstance, that, it is hoped, will not again occur, as, besides the regular physi-

tian, the Colonial Agent is also a physician of respectability, and means have been taken to educate persons of color for the profession. In the mean time, every precautionary expedient is adopted to prevent and alleviate disease. An appropriation of eight hundred dollars has been recently made for the erection and support of a hospital. A liberal provision exists for resident medical services, a full supply of medicine, with surgical and other instruments, are furnished, and suitable buildings prepared for the emigrants, who are, during the first season, whenever necessary, maintained from the public stores established by the Board of Managers, who may, on this head, claim the merit of having steadily extended to the colonists the utmost kindness and tenderness. This object has, indeed, been one of cardinal interest; from an early period of the colony, towns and other positions for settlement having been established in its interior, to which, recently, emigrants have been sent for the first season, and, in one instance with a success which leads the Board to hope, that a regard to this point, in connection with judicious medical treatment, will divest the climate of Liberia of all its terrors. And that no further practicable means may be left untried, directions have been given to their agents to supply the most precise and full statistical information of the colony, including the interior and elevated country; thus calling in the aid of science and liberal research on this most interesting point, and with the express view, in case the superior salubrity of the interior country shall recommend it, to extend the settlements of the colonists.

It has been remarked, that one of the great ends of this institution was the extirpation of the slave-trade. On the atrocity of this curse of humanity, we happily entertain, in this country, but one opinion, and, deplorable as its effects have already been, whatever shall effectually contribute to this extirpation, may be held as of inestimable importance.—For great as is the evil already inflicted, what comparison can it bear to that which the perpetuated continuance of this nefarious traffic would inevitably have on the happiness and dignity of a large portion of the human family—continuing, with augmented strength, the wars and massacres, and depopulation and woes of Africa, with these direful effects of extended slavery in every region of the earth that should receive this unfortunate race. It was well said, at the time the Society was founded, that this traffic would receive its surest and deadliest, if not its only effectual blow, in Africa itself. This prediction has, in no mean degree, been already verified in our colony. As might be expected, it is treated there with the most intelligent aversion; and more than one instance has already occurred, in which the colonists have spontaneously risen in their strength, and crusaded with energy and success, those who dared to pollute their soil, or its vicinity, with its accursed traffic.

In the early stages of the colony, the United States having passed laws to give effect to the extinguishing the slave-trade, which was declared

piracy, authorized the transportation to Liberia of such Africans as should be re-captured by our vessels; and, for the purpose of carrying this power into effect, have, at that time and since, so far aided the colony, as to contribute to the support of the Colonial Agent, to the supply of arms, and erection of fortifications, to the compensation, for a sum, of a physician, and to some other agents, connected with a provision for the temporary maintenance and protection of the recaptured Africans. The greater part of these expenses were incurred many years since, and have averaged about the annual sum of \$1,000 dollars, and are now considerably reduced. Some exception has been taken, in a solitary official document, drawn up by a subordinate officer, to the expenditures of the Government, which it is not further necessary to notice than by observing, that these disbursements were made by the Government itself, who alone, and not the Board of Managers, are answerable for them; that the object for which they were expended, is more than equal to the amount expended; and that a very moderate acquaintance with the difficulties and perils incident to the establishment of remote settlements, united with a due sense of the dignity of the object, must convince every liberal American mind of the insignificance of the means, thus applied, to the importance of the end.

With the exception of this contribution, for which the friends of the cause should be grateful, notwithstanding its moderate amount, and the annual aid of \$1,000 by the State of Maryland, and a small donation by Virginia, the funds of the Society have been derived from individual contributions.

From the records of the Society, it appears that the contributions received have been as follows. It should be noted, that the amounts include the expenses of collection, which are not inconsiderable.

In 1820, 1821, & 1822,	-	-	-	\$1,625.66
1823,	-	-	-	4,798.02
1824,	-	-	-	4,379.89
1825,	-	-	-	10,425.85
1826,	-	-	-	14,579.24
1827,	-	-	-	13,241.94
1828,	-	-	-	13,458.17
1829,	-	-	-	19,795.61
1830,	-	-	-	26,683.51
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				\$112,841.89

And that the annual expenditures are as follows:

In 1820, 1821, & 1822,	-	-	-	\$3,575.79
1823,	-	-	-	6,766.17
1824,	-	-	-	3,851.42
1825,	-	-	-	7,443.88
1826,	-	-	-	17,316.91
1827,	-	-	-	13,901.74
1828,	-	-	-	17,077.12
1829,	-	-	-	18,487.34
1830,	-	-	-	17,637.32
Balance on hand,	-	-	-	6,384.17
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				\$112,841.89

To secure a strict accountability, each donation is published in the African Repository, and a statement annually published of the sums expended. The distinct objects of these expenditures, are too numerous to give here in detail. But it is important, to the end of this communication, that the amounts of the leading items of expense, should be distinguished.

1. The first item consists of the expenses attending the transportation of emigrants. The cost of each emigrant, including his subsistence from his embarkation to his landing at Liberia, is about twenty-five dollars. If to this sum, be added the expense of clearing the emigrants off a from remote ports, and that incidental to fitting out the vessel, the cost may be stated at twenty-six dollars.

2. The subsistence of each emigrant at the Colony for six months after his arrival, which may be estimated at thirteen dollars.

3. The compensation of the agents and officers of the Society at the Colony, which are, for the Colonial Agents,

Paid by the Government,	\$1,600
Paid by the Society,	800
	<u>-\$800</u>

For the Physician of the Colony,

	1,500
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At present there is but one permanent physician. There have, at times, been two, and one for temporary duty, is about going out.

For other officers,

	1,000
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In aid of public schools, estimated at

	700
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For arms and warlike munitions, armed vessels, &c. estimated at

	1,500
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An expense of \$4,000 has been lately incurred for an armed schooner, to transport supplies from one part of the Colony to another, and in protecting the Colony and checking the slave trader.

For public buildings, no doubt, and sundry incidental charges, estimated at

	500
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\$6,000

4. The administrative expenses within the United States, consisting of:

Salary of Corresponding Secretary,	\$1,250
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Do. - Clerk to Treasurer,	600
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Chaplain and agents in different sections of the United States, engaged in forming auxiliary societies, collecting funds, and diffusing information respecting the objects of the Society, estimated at

	1,000
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Postage of letters, &c. about

	150
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Office rent, printing, and stationery, about

	1,500
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\$4,500

During the three last years, the receipts and expenditures appear to have been as follows:

Received in donations,	\$59,927.29
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Expended,	53,201.18
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Thus, a balance remaining with the African Repository, P. O., of

What has since been done?

* The expenses of framing and publishing the African Repository, and maintaining them, and for all other auxiliary enterprises.

Making an average expenditure of about 18,000 dollars, consisting of charges for transportation and subsistence of emigrants on their passage, - - - - -	\$5,902
Their subsistence at Liberia for six months, - - - - -	2,951
Compensation of the agents and officers of the Society at the Colony, for public schools, arms, and military supplies, public buildings, medicines, and sundry incidental expenses - - - - -	6,000
Expenses of administration within the U. S. - - - - -	4,500
	<u><u>\$19,353</u></u>

During this period, 681 emigrants have been sent to Liberia, being an average of 227 in each year.

From this view of the expenses of the society, it follows, that those incurred in the transportation of the emigrant and his subsistence on the voyage, are exceeded by the other expenses of the colony. This is readily accounted for, by the consideration that, in many respects, the expenses of the colony are at present nearly the same as they would be if greatly extended. Such an extension would but little increase the compensation to the necessary officers and agents here, and the charges incidental to the organization, government, and protection of the colony.

This detailed view of the expenses of the colony is given, not only that public opinion may exercise a salutary control over the expenditures; but likewise with the view of making an explanation, which, it is hoped, will be satisfactory, of some incidents of recent occurrence.

It has been represented that in this great scheme of beneficence, whose accomplishment at present depends, with a single exception, on the spontaneous offerings of individuals, it is just, that those who contribute the means, should enjoy the right of directing the mode of their application; that, while all the friends of the cause unite in the leading end of the institution, there are various ways of carrying it into effect, on the relative benefits of which different minds may form different conclusions; that some of these are particularly fitted to some parts of the Union, while different ones are not less fitted to other parts of the Union; and that, by allowing each donor, in case he sees fit, to appropriate his donation to a specific object, the field of contribution will be greatly extended, and the general approbation increased. The Board of Managers, yielding to the force of these suggestions, have in all instances, given a pledge, that contributions should be applied in strict obedience to the will of the donors. Thus, in some instances, it has, with their approbation, been made a term, that certain contributions should be solely applied to the transportation of slaves manumitted with the express view of such transportation; in other instances, contributions have been received that are limited to purposes of education in Liberia; in others, for the purposes of supplying tracts. In all these cases it is distinctly understood, that the application of the contribution shall be, as it has always heretofore been, confined to the designated end.

While, however, the Board of Managers, have invariably, in good faith, observed this rule, they would respectfully recommend to the donors who prescribe it, a full consideration of its relative benefits and evils previous to its adoption. They must be sensible, that the scheme of colonization is one of great magnitude and complexity; that the objects connected with the prosperous founding of a colony in a remote region are numerous and diversified; that the means are often experimental, and require modification from time to time, as experience, the only safe guide, shall indicate, and that those must ordinarily be the most competent to designate the best objects and means, whose official and habitual duties, make them necessarily best acquainted with the state of the colony. To foster it most effectually and economically, it will, in general, be advisable, that there should be one common fund, applicable, according to the varying circumstances, to the existing condition of the colony, and to the objects of the most pressing importance, instead of a fund broken into distinct fragments, thus often producing inevitably the result that at the very moment there may be abundant funds in the treasury, for the accomplishment of all necessary objects, if unrestricted in their application, vital objects may be neglected, from the want of funds specially applicable to them; while superfluous funds, applicable exclusively to objects of minor importance, are uselessly expended, or lie idle and unproductive. A correct perception of the effect of such a course may be formed, by supposing that, in framing the Constitution of the United States, the power to lay taxes had been connected with a restricted application of them to designated objects. Could there have been devised a more effectual mode of rendering the Government incompetent to its great ends? However disproportionate these cases are in respect to their magnitude, they furnish, from their similar nature, a close analogy—the colony of Liberia, for its founding and protection, requiring in many respects the same exercise of powers as the United States.

It is proper here to notice a limitation of contributions, which has in some cases been applied, and which may not, perhaps, under peculiar circumstances, be liable to exception. In some sections of the Union, it has been proposed to limit the contributions raised in it, to the colonization of their own people of colour. It is obvious that the *general* adoption of this principle, would be very injurious, if not fatal to the rapid growth of the colony, as the wealth of the country mainly lies in those sections where there are but few subjects for colonization, and where happily an ardent zeal prevails. But this may not constitute a valid objection to the *special* application of the principle in particular cases, as it is probable that the readiness of the latter sections to contribute, regardless of local benefit to themselves, would not be abated by the restriction in particular districts, especially if it should be realized, that in some districts, this might be the surest way of aiding the object, and that it might

be so, is not unlikely, when we consider the local and universal interest that would be apt to be taken by a community to release itself from a serious surrounding and otherwise increasing evil.

In all these cases, notwithstanding occasional diversities of opinion, the Board of Managers, and the several auxiliary societies, have proceeded together in harmonious concert. Means have been supplied by or through the latter, and been applied by the former in fitting out expeditions. In one recent instance, the friends of the cause in one district, believing that it could be most vigorously prosecuted in it by committing their contributions to the colonization of their own people of colour, have proposed a plan for raising means, composed of money raised by auxiliary societies within its limits, and with them themselves fitting out the expeditions, they defraying, out of their own funds, the expenses of collecting and transporting the emigrants.

The above detailed view of the disbursements, shows that the ordinary expenses of maintaining an emigrant at the colony, before he is able to support himself, amounts to about thirteen dollars, and further shows, that the expense of administering the colony, assessed to each emigrant, greatly transcends this amount. The emigrants, for the last three years, average about 227, while the expenses, exclusive of transportation, and temporary subsistence of the new colonists, exceed ten thousand dollars. It has been thought by the managers, that the payment of twenty dollars for each emigrant sent to the colony, by each auxiliary society, which might adopt the plan to which we have alluded, might diminish the evil consequences which are apprehended from its general adoption, it being evident, that otherwise all the means raised would go to the transportation of emigrants, and those required for the general concerns of the society and colony, be entirely wanting, and the system be destroyed. A flourishing colony of about two thousand souls has, with great labour, and at a large expense, been founded. It owes its success to institutions, by which it is protected from external danger, from the slave trade itself, and by which it enjoys those political and civil rights that already constitute it the safe and honourable asylum of the oppressed, and which hold out the promise of boundless benefit and grandeur to a large portion of the inhabitants of two quarters of the Globe. The only way of maintaining these institutions is by meeting the expenses necessarily incident to them, and to meet these expenses, a certain portion of the funds raised is indispensable. To surrender these would be either to abandon the colony, or by jeopardizing the continuance of its greatest blessings, to convert it into a scourge, instead of an ornament of the human race.

Hitherto, the practice has been, whenever the Board of Managers had collected sufficient funds, or been assured of their seasonable receipt, for them to cause one or more expeditions to be fitted out and to take the proper steps for carrying them into effect. These consisted, not merely

in the freight of vessels, and obtaining the needful supplies for the subsistence of the emigrants on their passage, but, also, in furnishing supplies for them, for a certain period after their arrival, erecting suitable buildings for their shelter, providing medical aid, and making various other provisions for their well being. To throw the emigrants on the shores of Liberia, without these previous arrangements, would be to expose them to immolation, and to render their arrival a subject of regret, instead of gratulation, to the older colonists. These arrangements have, consequently, gone hand in hand with the expeditions that have been conducted by the Board of Managers. The proposed plan, in divesting the Board of Managers of any direct agency in fitting out any expedition, in the districts in which it may obtain, does not supersede their duty to make all the necessary provisions for the welfare of the emigrants, thus transported, after their arrival at the colony. These expeditions may be conducted, possibly, on a large and unprecedented scale. Their promoters avow the hope that they will be. Hence, the increased obligation on the Board of Managers, to secure the means, without which, it might be totally impracticable to fulfil their duties. What would be the state of things—how fatal might it not be to the whole scheme, if emigrants should be transported beyond the means for their accommodation? And yet, this would be the *actual consequence* of the exclusive application of funds to the transportation of emigrants. When, indeed, we consider the necessary unity of the colony, and that its success and progress can alone flow from a systematic course of measures, emanating from, and executed by one common authority, it should not occasion surprise, if it shall eventually be found, that even the plan that confers on particular districts the power of fitting out expeditions will be pernicious. In a certain degree, it certainly will have the effect of destroying the nationality of the object, and of subverting a course of systematic measures. It will also have the effect of impairing the unbroken responsibility that otherwise would attach to one central agency, invested with authority to direct the whole machine.—Nor should it escape notice, that this beneficent scheme owes much of its success and grandeur to the concentration at one point, of the direction of the resources and efforts for its accomplishment, and that its location at the Seat of the General Government gives it not only a character of nationality, but furnishes the surest means of concentrating the opinions and efforts of the whole Union. Whatever is done, is here done in the view of the whole American people, under the moral auspices, as it were, of their Legislature. The greatest confidence may hence be reposed in the prudence of measures taken under their notice and advice. Every thing is submitted to the annual meetings, composed of delegates, often, if not generally, identified with legislators, and high judicial and executive magistrates of the land, and passes through the ordeal of their scrutiny.—They give birth to, and change at pleasure, the Board of Managers, who

are the instruments of their will. When to these considerations are added the increasing favor of the State Legislatures to the colony, and their hoped-for influence, on the Legislature of the Union, in the final adoption of measures which shall give to this pure scheme of benevolence its full and eventful developement, whatever tends, however slightly, to weaken the central and national action of the system, may be well questioned.

These important considerations have had their due weight with the Board of Managers, and constituted, they trust, a most sufficient reason for the adoption of the condition attached to the somewhat independent power involved in the plan suggested; which condition, in fact, amounts to no more than the securing, contingently, funds indispensably necessary to give effect to the plan itself, and without which it might prove worse than abortive, by the death or famine of the persons transported under it, as well as seriously distressing to the elder colonists.

It has, in a recent instance, been a subject of complaint, that letters to the Board of Managers are not answered in a detail corresponding to the expectations of the writers. In all cases where either courtesy or the interests of the society require it, answers are given by the Secretary.—Where neither claim it, they are not given. In all cases the utmost conciseness is aimed at. A due consideration will evince the necessity of this course. The Secretary is the sole organ of conducting the correspondence of the Society, and from the great extent of his correspondence, pervading every section of the United States, it must be evident that the devotion of his whole time would be entirely inadequate to impart the details, which, on many occasions, would doubtless be acceptable to many of his correspondents. His whole time is, indeed, devoted to the affairs of the society, but no inconsiderable portion of it is consumed in deliberations with the Board of Managers, of which he is an active member, in preparing subjects for their action upon them; in corresponding with the agents of the Society at Liberia, and in that general attention to its concerns that devolves on the principal, and almost sole executive officer in this country. Hence, it becomes indispensable, trusting to the full information spread before the public in the annual reports, and other copious statements rendered mostly through the Repository, generally to decline answers, where the information sought can be found in those publications, and to confine the answers given, to such matter as they may not contain. It should be added, that there are many points that the Secretary is not competent to answer, being such as require the previous deliberation and decision of the Board of Managers, who meet but once in two weeks, unless specially convened. And when it is considered that the Board is composed of men engaged in active business, they will not be viewed, perhaps, as entirely destitute of merit, in devoting so much of their time to this object.

From The Colony.

LIBERIA, JUNE 15, 1831.

DEAR SIR,

In my last, you were informed that I had just returned from examining the country in the vicinity of Millsburg, for the purpose of selecting a site for our saw-mill; since my return, I have ascended the two principal branches of the Mesurado, to within a short distance of their origin, and descended the Junk river from its source to the sea. As some account of the country visited in these several excursions will probably prove interesting, I annex a few extracts from my journal, consisting chiefly of remarks made at the time, and which, from the hurried manner in which my journey was performed, cannot be expected to contain much accurate or interesting information concerning the manners, customs, &c. of the people inhabiting the district of country through which I travelled. To do this, requires more leisure than I can devote to it; and a greater share of patience than usually falls to the lot of any one mortal. Perhaps after a few years' residence, I may be able to effect more; but at present, my time is so completely occupied with the multifarious duties of my station, as to prevent my giving it the attention its importance demands.

It is impossible for those who have not resided some time in Africa, to imagine the difficulties to be encountered in obtaining from the natives correct intelligence of themselves or their country; they are apt to suspect the enquirer has some sinister end in view, especially should he be in any way connected with the colony; it is also necessary that the questions should be varied, to enable them to understand their precise import, and the answers of the different individuals compared, to arrive at any thing like a correct conclusion. Some will answer every question in the affirmative, either purposely to mislead or to prevent a repetition of the enquiry, and avoid the trouble of answering; but had I sufficient time to devote to acquiring a knowledge of the languages spoken in our vicinity, many obstacles would be removed, and any information I might then obtain could be relied on as correct.

The morning after my arrival at Millsburg, I crossed the river to the mouth of a small creek which discharges itself into the St. Paul's, directly opposite, and ascended it about 200 yards. At this point a ledge of rocks rendered further progress by water impracticable; we accordingly landed, and followed the course of the stream for several miles. The country is the most beautiful that can be imagined; the banks are covered with trees of immense size, and their branches interwoven with vines and decorated with gaudy parasitic plants, formed a shade impervious to the rays of the sun, and imparted a coolness to the air which was truly delightful. The stream was irregular in its width, sometimes forcing its

way through fissures in the rocks, and at others, spreading out and forming wide and deep pools; the water was deliciously cool, and so transparent that the bottom was distinctly visible at a considerable depth. Nothing could exceed the beauty and tranquility of the scene; it seemed as if the foot of man had never trodden these solitudes, so deep was the silence that prevailed; only at times interrupted by the murmuring sound of the water, the scream of the fish-hawk, or the chattering of the monkeys pursuing their gambols over our heads. The numerous and recent tracks of hippopotami and wild cattle observed in our route, seemed to indicate this as one of their favourite haunts, rarely, if ever disturbed by the presence of man. The face of the country is undulating; the soil deep and rich, and covered with heavy forests, more free from undergrowth than any I have seen in our vicinity.

After devoting the greater part of the day to exploring the country, and the examination of several spots likely to answer our purpose, we finally concluded that none was so well adapted to the erection of a mill, as the place where we were compelled to abandon our boat. It is, as was before observed, distant nearly 200 yards from the mouth of the creek, which is here about 60 feet wide. The north-eastern bank is formed entirely of rock, rising perpendicularly to the height of twenty feet; the south western is composed of stiff clay, with a deep superstratum of vegetable mould, presenting no obstacles to the excavation of a mill-race, with a fall of water of ten to fifteen feet, and a ledge of rocks extending quite across the stream, offers a firm foundation on which we can erect a dam. The tide reaches this spot, and at high water, every facility is offered for floating oil lumber. Excellent timber abounds some distance up the stream, and when the water is raised to a sufficient height by the construction of a dam, it can be readily transported to this spot.

Late in the afternoon we returned to Millsburg, and found an express from Monrovia, announcing the arrival of the United States' Ship Java, and requesting my immediate presence. Accordingly, early next morning, I set off on my return, without being able to devote as much time to the examination of the country as I had originally intended.

A few days after the departure of the Java, finding myself comparatively at leisure, I determined to explore the north-eastern branch of the Mesurado, for the purpose of selecting a tract of land suitable for farms. We ascended the river about 15 miles, when finding the water too shoal to admit of further progress, we landed, and visited King Allen, a petty chief in our vicinity, and one of those who took an active part in the attack made on the Colony at its first settlement; his town is situated on the north-western side of the river, about three or four hundred yards from the bank, and consists of about ten or twelve thatched houses, containing about thirty inhabitants, chiefly women and children. He is wretchedly poor, as are all the kings in our neighbourhood, their revenue having been

nearly destroyed in consequence of the breaking up of the slave trade. After dining with his majesty, we descended the river to King Bob's town; where we found eight or ten of the neighbouring kings assembled in council, or as they term it, holding "a grand palaver." Mr. E. Johnson, who accompanied me, had been previously requested to meet them, in order that they might, through him, communicate the result of their deliberations to me. The principal object of their meeting was to request us to take them under our protection, and establish a settlement in their neighbourhood; and their motive for making this request was to secure themselves from King Boatswain, of whose power they have the greatest dread. They said they were well assured they would not be molested, if it was known we had received them as subjects of the Colony, as they had never known an instance where the colonists, or those protected by them, had been interfered with by any of Boatswain's war parties.—Another cause of their convening, was to make formal complaint that several natives from Bassa, at present residing in the Colony, and who are in a great measure civilized, had disclosed to their women the secret of the Grippau (or devil, as the natives translate it) employed by them to keep their females in proper subjection. This demon, or Grippau, is nothing more than the head man, or chief, of a secret association, termed Grippau, bearing a close resemblance to the secret societies to be found among the Bulloms and Scossoos, in the neighbourhood of Sierra Leone, though not possessing as extensive powers. It is among the former termed *Purra*, and with the latter, *Nano*. These institutions have been fully and accurately described by Dr. Winterbottom, formerly Physician to Sierra Leone, and to whose work I beg leave to refer you. This head Grippau man, disguised so as to render his appearance as hideous as possible, issues at night from the grove set apart for the celebration of their mysterious rites, and entering the town with the most dreadful howlings, proceeds to enquire into the conduct of the females, and if any have given cause of dissatisfaction to their lords, he punishes them according to the aggravation of the offence. The women are kept in profound ignorance of the real character of their tormentor, and really believe him to be a supernatural being or demon. The discovery of the secrets of this society is invariably punished with death, which is executed in so secret a manner, that the offender suddenly disappears, none but the initiated know how, and the others, so great is their dread of this institution, dare not enquire; but since several of the natives have been educated in the Colony, they have, in a great measure, divested themselves of their superstitions, and do not hesitate to reveal the secret to the women who resort to the Cape, these, when convinced that the being whose power they so much dreaded, is nothing more than mortal, are no longer to be kept in the same slavish subjection, and a King, who has 15 or 20 wives, finds it a difficult matter to govern them. I refused to have any thing to

say on this subject, but told them, if they wished to place themselves under our protection, they must assemble at the Cape, when I would "talk that palaver." After spending about three hours at this town, which presents the same aspect of poverty as King Allen's, I took leave of this congress of sovereigns, and returned home.

Nothing can be more unpromising than the appearance of the country on this branch of the Mesurado. The banks are so low as to be overflowed at every tide; and are covered, as far as the eye can reach, with an impenetrable and apparently interminable growth of mangroves. The waters are sluggish, and discoloured with the black mud of the mangrove marshes, from which, at low water, an intolerably offensive odour, resembling sulphuretted hydrogen is exhaled, and which would, doubtless, to the unacclimated, prove a fruitful source of disease. The stream is so winding in its course, that in several places it almost doubles on itself, and you frequently think you are arriving at the high land which appears in the distance; but when within about 200 yards, it makes a sudden turn, and departs at right angles. Upon the whole, I do not think it possible for us to select on either bank, (at least as far as I have ascended) a situation at all adapted to agricultural purposes. Even in those places where it makes the nearest approach to the high ground, an almost impassable mangrove swamp will prevent our occupying it with any prospect of advantage.

Having heard much of the beauty and fertility of the country bordering on the Junk River, I resolved to avail myself of the first opportunity to visit it, and ascertain the practicability of establishing a settlement. I left Monrovia on the morning of the 14th of March, in company with Mr. A. D. Williams, the Vice Agent, and Mr. E. Johnson (having previously sent a large boat manned with Kroomen around by sea, with orders to ascend the Junk River as far as King George's town, and there wait our arrival). We ascended the right or eastern branch of the Mesurado, about thirteen miles, when we were obliged to land, on account of the shallowness of the water. The river has its source about one-fourth of a mile above this place, in an extensive morass, overgrown with long grass, and low mangrove bushes. Nothing can be more devoid of interest to a traveller, than the scenery on this river; in its leading features, it closely resembles that on the north-eastern branch; there is no succession of objects to relieve the eye—the same dull uniformity prevailing throughout its whole course. We slept at Cailio's town, a native village situated a short distance from the landing place, and containing perhaps from twenty to thirty inhabitants. The soil in the vicinity is very barren, being completely exhausted by repeated cultivation, and is capable, at present, of producing little else than cassada.

March 15th.—In the morning we breakfasted somewhat in the native style, which, to one who is at all particular as to the observance of any

thing approaching to cleanliness in the culinary department, would have proved a very uninviting repast. One dish I recollect was called *Dumboy*, and is made by pounding the eggs ad lib. in a wooden mortar, until it forms a thick tenacious mass; it is then put into a pot, and boiled, with a soup composed of fish or fowl, seasoned with African pepper. Curiosity induced me to taste it, although I knew it had been subjected to the manipulations of perhaps a dozen unwholesome women and girls. I cut off a dice and attempted to chew it, but found the taste made no impression; it was as tough as India rubber, and equally as impulsive under the operation of mastication. After repeated trials, having ascertained it certainly was never intended to be chewed, I bolted the mass, with a spoonfull of the sauce, so highly seasoned with pepper, that it felt like liquid fire pouring down my throat. After breakfasting, we hired natives to carry our baggage; and these, when assembled, presented a motley group of both sexes, and almost every age and size, whom the prospect of pay well induced to accompany us; women with children at their backs would carry from fifty to seventy pounds on their heads, and travel at a rate, which we, who were unaccustomed, found quite fatiguing.

Our route lay through a nearly level country, with extensive fields, skirted with open forests. This land has evidently been under cultivation within this few years, and exhausted; it consists of a loose sandy soil, producing nothing but long coarse grass. In some places the plain was thickly studded with tumuli formed by the Termites Bellicosci (called by the natives Bug-a-Bug). These mounds were from eight to twelve feet high, and ten to fourteen feet thick at the base; several having been abandoned by the inhabitants, were covered with a brown grass, which gave them, at a short distance, a resemblance to hay cocks. About two and a half miles from Callo's, we passed a collection of huts recently erected by some people who had been driven in by one of Boatswain's war parties; and two miles further on, we arrived at a small town inhabited by Quedi people, who have also, for their greater security, been induced to settle in our vicinity. The Juk river has its source not more than a quarter of a mile beyond this town, in an extensive morass, covered with heavy timber. Here we hired a large canoe to convey us to King George's town, situated at twelve or fifteen miles, and at which place we had to leave the boat to continue.

The Juk, where we embarked, was not more than three yards wide, and two feet deep; in some places it was much narrower, there being barely room enough for the canoe to pass, and so obstructed by fallen trees, that we had to lie down in order to pass them. After proceeding in this manner for two or three miles, the stream gradually expanded, and at ten miles from its source, we found it nearly four yards wide, and deep enough to float a vessel of 100 tons.

We reached King George's place late in the afternoon, much fatigued by

sitting so long in a confined posture, and were glad to stretch our limbs. The town is situated on the western bank of the river, and is composed of from thirty to forty houses, and contains about one hundred inhabitants. We were hospitably received by the old King, who had one of the largest houses prepared for our accommodation. This is the same King George who resided on the Cape at the first settlement of the Colony, and was one of our most active and determined enemies during the war with the natives; he is at present in reduced circumstances, and is moreover afflicted with a cancerous disease of the tongue, for which, as it did not appear to be so far advanced but that there was a probability of its being cured by a surgical operation, I advised him to come to the Cape, and place himself under the care of Dr. Todsen.

March 16th.—Finding our barge had not arrived, we concluded not to wait for her; and accordingly, after breakfasting, proceeded on our voyage, having first hired another canoe to carry our baggage. As we descended the river, it gradually expanded, and at the distance of twenty-five miles from its source, we found it fully a mile wide; it is very winding in its course, in some places describing three-fourths of a circle, and at others, the shores, swelling out on one side, and receding on the other, formed a series of graceful curves, which at every turn offered to our view a continued succession of objects, each presenting new beauties to admire.—We passed several villages, delightfully situated on the banks, and embosomed in groves of Plantain, Banana, and Palm-trees. The shores were covered with vegetation splendid beyond description. Trees of singular form and foliage, springing from a deep and rich soil, reared their heads to an amazing height; while their branches were covered with a beautiful drapery of vines, forming a dense shade, and hanging in many places in festoons, to the surface of the water. The fertility of the soil gave a depth and vividness to the green which was finely relieved by the varied hues of the flowers that decked the forest, and the surface of the stream, as smooth as a polished mirror, reflected with the utmost minuteness the variegated beauties of the vegetation that clothed its banks. As we approached a native village, groups of the inhabitants would assemble on the shore, inviting us by their gestures to land; occasionally, a light canoe might be seen shooting across the stream, while overhead, troops of monkeys pursued their gambols among the trees; in short, every thing combined to give animation to a landscape the beauties of which description can never equal.

About 5 o'clock, P. M., we arrived at a small village called Jack's town, distant from the mouth of the river nearly two miles; here we found our barge waiting for us—the Kroonen, owing to some misunderstanding, did not ascend the river as they were directed. We were completely worn out by the fatigue of sitting so long in the canoe: and my face and hands were nearly blistered by ten hours exposure to the rays of a

tropical sun. After resting ourselves, and eating some very fine oysters, with which this river abounds, we discharged the canoes, and embarked on board the barge in company with Prince Will's son, who was sent by his father to meet us. We proceeded to King Tom's town, called by the natives C'dai, situated on the eastern branch of the Junk, about a mile from its junction with the principal stream; we soon doubled the point formed by their union (which is nearly a mile from the sea) and reached our place of destination shortly after sunset. His majesty, who was awaiting our arrival, gave us a cordial welcome; he had a large house prepared for our reception, and presented us with a goat and some fowls for our supper. After refreshing ourselves, we were entertained with a war-dance performed by the men of the town.

In the course of the evening, Prince Will arrived from his town on the opposite side of the river. He expressed himself highly delighted to see us, but at the same time it was evident he was somewhat suspicious of our motives for visiting him; indeed I found considerable alarm was occasioned by our presence. They apprehended they had displeased us in some way, and we had come for the purpose of demanding satisfaction, or as they expressed it, "to make palaver," and it was not until we had repeatedly assured them that our visit was one of friendship, and to gratify curiosity, and produced our presents (or dash), that their alarm subsided, or I may say was changed into absolute delight. Their consequence in the country is, I presume, by this visit, increased ten-fold; and they will no doubt make out a very good story to entertain the neighbouring chiefs, giving to the whole affair a greater importance than it is fairly entitled to.

March 17th.—In the morning we employed ourselves in taking a survey of the town, which is the largest and best built I have seen in this country. The houses are placed without any attention to order or regularity, and are generally of a circular form, with high conical roofs thatched with leaves, and are very dry and comfortable; the eaves project a considerable distance beyond the walls, and form a shade in which the natives, during the heat of the day, recline on rude couches formed of banks of clay hardened in the sun, and covered with mats; the spaces in front of the houses are kept very clean, being regularly swept twice a day; and no offals or any kind of dirt is suffered to be deposited within the limits of the town; in fact no place presents an air of greater neatness than a well-ordered African village. This place contains about two hundred inhabitants; besides which, the King has several smaller villages, or half-towns, as they are called, each containing from fifty to one hundred people.

Here, as in all the other towns, I observed in front of the King's house, a square enclosure, formed by laying down four logs, each about four feet long, and filling the intermediate space with sand; from the centre of this, a carved post arises to the height of two feet, and is surmounted with a small wooden bowl. Curiosity induced me to inquire its

use, and I was informed it was the town fetiche, or greegree, erected to prevent theft. My informant gravely added, when any property was stolen, the King had only to kneel down and inquire of the greegree, and it was sure to discover the thief. In one of the principal houses I observed a greegree for the preservation of the health of young children; it consisted of a column of earth, about 18 inches high, thrown up by a species of ant (the lesser Termites). Mothers bring their infants at stated periods, and show them the greegree; and if they notice or appear pleased with it, they are persuaded they will be free from disease during that year. Every house had also its peculiar fetiche, either placed in a miniature hut resting against the larger, or suspended from the roof; the substances composing these greegrees are various, such as the head of a serpent, a few bones and bits of glass, the skull of a monkey, &c. each of which is supposed to possess particular virtues, and are confidently relied on by the ignorant natives, as being able to avert any calamity or misfortune from the inmates of the houses to which they are attached.

About ten o'clock, A. M. we crossed the river for the purpose of visiting Prince Will. His town (called by the natives Buzzon) is situated nearly three miles from the shore; our path lay through a country beautifully diversified with hill and dale, and covered with heavy forests of excellent timber, entirely free from undergrowth. In our route, we observed several large spaces cleared for the purpose of planting rice and cassada; the soil was a loose, rich vegetable mould, mixed with sand, and will doubtless yield abundant crops. About noon we reached the town, and were received with great hospitality. Provisions in abundance were furnished, and the people seemed to vie with each other who should shew us the greatest attention. This town, though not so large, presents the appearance of greater neatness and comfort than Cabai (King Tom's).—The houses are more spacious, and built of better materials: and something like regularity has been observed in placing them at proper distances, and in right lines. In the afternoon we walked about a mile through the woods, to view a large cassada plantation belonging to the Prince, and found an abundance of that important vegetable growing in the greatest luxuriance. At night we were again entertained with singing and dancing, until a late hour.

March 18th.—Arose very early, and found Mr. E. Johnson busily engaged in purchasing fowls, at the rate of two heads of tobacco the pair.—After breakfasting, we returned to King Tom's town, where we spent some time in purchasing fowls, and preparing for our departure. At noon, we took leave of our host, and embarked on board the barge, for the purpose of viewing the mouth of the river. We were accompanied by Prince Will, three of his favorite wives, and two of his sons. I was surprised to find the Junk so very narrow at its entrance; it did not appear to be more than half as wide as the principal stream. It is, howev-

er, very deep, but cannot be entered by large vessels, on account of the shoals which extend a considerable distance from the shore, and on which the sea broke with great violence. At this place we landed his royal highness and family, and bidding them adieu, commenced our route homewards, and shortly after dark arrived at a small town on the Western bank of the river, under the charge of King Gray's head man. The tide was out, and the landing place was so bad that we had to be carried ashore on the backs of the Kroomen, who were frequently knee deep in soft black mud; we found the head man absent, and after getting supper, retired to rest.

March 19th.—Left our quarters before day break and prepared for our departure; learned that the head man had visited the town during the night, but had gone off again; he, however, returned before we departed, and presented us with a fine sheep; we made a suitable present in return, and having rejoiced the people with a little tobacco and a few pipes, again embarked and reached King George's town about ten o'clock. Here we had breakfast cooked. The old King seemed much pleased to see us again and wished us to spend the day with him, and appeared much mortified at our refusal; we presented him with some tobacco, cloth, pipes, &c. and took our leave, having first hired two large canoes to accompany us. About one o'clock, P. M. we were obliged, on account of the narrowness of the stream, to dismiss the barge and enter the canoes; we reached the head of the river at three o'clock, and engaged natives to carry our baggage across to Caiho's, at which place we arrived before sun set—we found our small boat as we had left her, and embarking, returned to Monrovia after dark.

The Junk, as was before observed, takes its rise in a vast morass distant from the head waters of the Mesurado about five miles, and after running nearly fifty miles in a S. S. W. direction, discharges itself into the ocean about thirty-five miles to the leeward of Monrovia. In its course it receives several tributary streams from the E. S. E. the largest of which joins it about a mile from the sea. The breadth of the principal stream varies from 400 yards, to a mile and a quarter, and the average depth is from two to four fathoms, and this continues pretty uniform for about thirty-five miles, but small boats and canoes can ascend to its source. The mouth of this river, like all others on this coast, is obstructed by shoals extending to a considerable distance from the shore, and will not admit the entrance of vessels drawing more than four or five feet water; which circumstance, joined to that of there being no harbor or secure anchorage for vessels, will ever prevent its rising into commercial importance.

The land on either side is sufficiently elevated to secure it from inundation, in some places it gradually rises from the water's edge to the height of 100 to 200 feet, the country a little further removed from the

river is higher and more diversified with hill and dale, and covered with dense forests of valuable timber, much of which, will answer for ship building. The soil is a deep, rich, vegetable mould, which, for fertility, equals, if it does not surpass any in our territory, and I am confident, many situations for agricultural settlements might be selected, preferable in point of local advantages to any on the St. Paul's. The communication with Monrovia can be kept up either by sea, by means of our small vessels, or by ascending to the head of the river and crossing the narrow strip of land that separates it from the Mesurado.

With every sentiment of esteem and respect,

I remain as ever, your obedient servant,

To REV. R. R. GURLEY.

J. MECHLIN, Jr.



Intelligence.

VIRGINIA.—The newspapers in this State show evidence of a strong and extensive and increasing interest in the colonization of the free people of color. Sundry petitions have been sent in to the General Assembly, asking its attention to this subject, and Governor Floyd has recommended it in his Message to the consideration of the Legislature. Severalable essays over the signature of "Ashmun," recommending not only the colonization, in a series of years, of the free people of colour, but also the gradual emancipation and removal of the slaves, have appeared in the Petersburg and Richmond papers. They merit the serious consideration of all the citizens of Virginia.

A petition has been circulated in Chesterfield county, Va. to be presented at the approaching session of the Legislature, praying that it would take such steps as would bring about an amendment of the Constitution, so as to give to Congress the power to purchase Slaves, and transport them to Africa, or elsewhere.

VIRGINIA.—The following eloquent Memorial to the Legislature of the State of Virginia has been forwarded to the Editors of the Richmond Whig, from the county of Fluvanna, by the Ladies of which county it is understood that it will be extensively signed:—

To the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Memorial of the Female Citizens of the County of Fluvanna, most respectfully sheweth.

Your Memorialists have hitherto been blessed with contentment in the happy privacy of domestic retirement, where they have enjoyed peace and security, under the wise institutions of a free Government; nor have they, until now, had occasion to appeal to the guardians of their country's rights for redress of any national grievance, having shared the prosperity of their heaven-favored land with feelings of gratitude to the Au-

thor of all good, and to their natural guardians and protectors. They retain a grateful recollection of the patriotic exertions of your predecessors in office, when the land of their nativity wore the fetters of foreign thrallom, and the destinies of a mighty nation were involved in your deliberations as a legislative body. The spirit now animates your counsels which then triumphed over the oppression of Great Britain, and bore us safely through the perils of an unequal contest. The same wisdom pervades your deliberations which framed for our emancipated realm, a system of laws unequalled in the universe. Under this salutary code, we have seen our sons arise to manhood, unfettered by abject restrictions, and our daughters fill their allotted stations among the honored matrons of a free land.

But a blight now hangs over our national prospects, and a cloud dims the sunshine of domestic peace throughout our State. Our ears have heard the waifings of distress, and a mysterious dread, mingled with fearful suspicion, disturbs the sacred quietes of our homes. We have heard "Rachel," as it were, "weeping for her children, because they are not," and uncontrollable sympathy with distant murmers, quickens the throbings of our once tranquil bosoms.

We cannot conceal from ourselves that an evil is among us, which threatens to outgrow the growth and eclipse the brightness of our national blessings. A shadow deepens over the land and casts its thickest gloom upon the sacred shrine of domestic bliss, darkening over us as time advances. We reflect, with gratitude, that no error in the framers of our Constitution entailed this evil upon us. We drew the taint from the bosom that fostered us, and it has gradually mingled with the vital principle of our national existence. It can no longer remain dormant and inert in the social system, but calls loudly for redress from the sages of our land. We are feelingly aware of the arduous difficulties of the case in question, and nothing but the fullest confidence in the wisdom and prudence of our Legislative Council, joined to a sacred trust in the God of nations, could induce us thus to intrude on the important avocations which engage your time and your attention. We feel confident of your sympathy in all real dangers, and trust that none of your revered body will impute our indifference in this delicate matter, to a culpable degree of timidity; neither will you impute to us the extravagant expectation that your utmost exertions can effect an immediate removal of the evil we deplore. We are prepared to endure a large proportion of the affliction, during our brief term of existence. But we look forward to the time, when our children's children will occupy the places which must soon know us no more — Should your wisdom devise a method of alleviating our national misfortune, posterity will be indebted to you for the security of the domestic sphere. Our daughters, and their daughters, are destined to become, in their turn, the tender fosterers of helpless infancy, the directors of devel-

oping childhood, and the companions of those citizens who will occupy the legislative and executive offices of their country. Can we calmly anticipate the condition of the Southern States, at that period, should no remedy be devised, to arrest the progressive miseries attendant on slavery? We shudder for the fate of our female descendants, while we endeavor to stifle the too importunate apprehensions of our own bosoms. It will be their province, as it is ours, to impose the salutary restraints of domestic discipline, and, in the absence of their lawful directors, to maintain temporary sway over the household. Can this post of duty be safely filled by a helpless female, amid the impediments arising from the increasing evils of slavery? Will the absent father's heart be at peace, when, amid the hurry of public affairs, his truant thoughts return to the home of his affections, surrounded by doubtful, if not dangerous subjects to a precarious authority? Perhaps when deeply engaged in his legislative duties, his heart may quail, and his tongue falter, with irrepressible apprehensions for the peace and safety of objects dearer than life itself.

Such will be the trials of our posterity, unless efficient measures are speedily put in operation to avert them from the unborn myriads of our native land.

We presume not to intrude our suggestions as to the method of accomplishing this stupendous undertaking, but we are content to leave the choice of measures to those on whose wisdom we can rely. It is sufficient that we are allowed the privilege of entreating our lawgivers to commence, without delay, a work which must be slowly and gradually performed. We can only aid the mighty task by ardent outpourings of the spirit of supplication at the Throne of Grace. We will call upon the God in whom we trust, to direct your counsels by his unerring wisdom, and guide you with his effectual spirit. We now conjure you by the sacred charities of kindred, by the solemn obligations of justice, by every consideration of domestic affection and patriotic duty, to nerve every faculty of your minds to the investigation of this important subject—and let not the united voices of your mothers, wives, daughters, and kindred, have sounded in your ears in vain!!

Louisiana.—An act has passed the Legislature of Louisiana, prohibiting under heavy penalties, the introduction of slaves into that state, for sale.

Louisville, Ky. Nov. 19.—Slaves—A bill is now before the House of Representatives to prevent the importation of slaves from other States, for sale, and will, we are informed, probably become a law. It inhibits the introduction of slaves into Kentucky, from and after the first of June next, except by emigrants, or persons residing here who may become, by descent or marriage, proprietors of slaves in other States. Such an act may do much good, and we therefore trust it may be passed, and rigidly enforced.

STATE COLONIZING SOCIETY OF TENNESSEE.—At a meeting of this Institution on the 8th of November, the following Resolutions were adopted.

Resolved, That a Committee of seven persons be appointed, to be selected and nominated by the President, whose duty it shall be to draw up and circulate for signature throughout the State, subscription papers to be signed by such persons as may be willing to contribute any amount, large or small, for the purpose of aiding in the removal of free persons of color from the State of Tennessee to the Colony of Liberia; and that it shall be understood and expressly stated as a condition, that the sums so subscribed shall not be called for till proper persons, who are willing to remove, shall have been found and approved by the managers of this Society;—said subscription papers to be returned to the Secretary of this Society within six months from this time.

Resolved, That a Committee of three persons be appointed, whose duty it shall be to draw up, and present in behalf of the Society, a memorial to the Legislature of Tennessee now in session, calling for the aid of that body to the objects of our association, and an appropriation of means for the removal of free persons of color from this State to the Colony at Liberia.

Resolved, That the managers of this Society be authorized to appropriate a sufficient sum from the funds of the Society, to defray the expenses of some intelligent free man of color, who shall proceed to Liberia for the purpose of obtaining information in relation to the Colony from actual observation.

The following is a list of the officers of the Society for the ensuing year.

Rev. Philip Linsley, B. D. President.

Vice-Presidents.

Richard G. Dunlap,	Samuel Powell,
Wilkins Tannehill,	William E. Kennedy,
Sam. G. Smith,	Adam Huntsman,
Nathan Greene,	

Managers.

Ephraim H. Foster,	Rev. O. Jennings, D. D.
Joseph Woods,	George Brown,
Anthony W. Johnson.	James Roane.
William G. Bunt,	

Robert H. McEwing, Rec. Sec.

Rev. George Weller, Cor. Sec.

John P. Erwin, Treasurer.

Ohio.—The State of Ohio is taking active measures to prevent the emigration of colored persons from other places into that State. A notice appears in the Cincinnati papers warning emigrants and those who may employ them, that certain requisitions of the law will be rigidly enforced against all delinquents. This notice has been thought necessary, in consequence of the measures which the Slaveholding States are adopting for the removal of their free people of color.

A bill has been introduced into the Legislature of North Carolina, to raise a fund for the removal of free persons of colour to Liberia, (proposing to lay a tax of ten cents on every black poll in the State.)

COLONIZATION SOCIETY.—The march of this institution in public favour is steadily onward. We learn this morning, from the Kentucky papers, that a resolution has passed both Houses, requesting their Senators and Representatives in Congress to use their best exertions to procure the passage of an Act of Congress, setting apart an annual appropriation out of the national funds, to assist in colonizing free persons of colour on the coast of Africa. At a recent meeting of the Managers of the Colonization Society of this city, it was resolved to request all the Kindred Societies of the United States to press a similar application upon the attention of Congress.—[*N. Y. Com. Adr.*]

There is much good sense in the following remarks from the *New Haven Chronicle*.

SLAVERY.—We copied in our last, an article from the *Genius of Temperance*, which treats of several projects for the removal of this evil.—Most of the writers who preach emancipation, do it with an evident opposition to the Colonization Society—they decry it as being a feeble instrument of removal, and some of them go so far as to denounce it as an instrument for the perpetuation of slavery.

We doubt the feasibility of the scheme of emancipation and teatancy—we doubt if the public mind at the South, whenever it ripens, as in the end it will, to the removal of slavery, will consent to the other part of the project. It is a distant and uncertain event, depending on many contingencies. A very large majority must be won over to the conviction, before any thing can be done.

The Colonization scheme is also gradual, but it is always, and steadily, and increasingly at work. A colony is founded. Every effort is making, and with the happiest prospects, to make that Colony the site of African prosperity and happiness. There the African is a freeman of the world, free to all its arts, its delights, its intellectual endowments, and its noblest privileges. The colony is building up a delightful, happy, desirable home for the African—a home which he will finally seek, which will be, not his asylum, but his country.

Let this colony be once settled—let its government be but finally established, and the vast utility of their “little efforts” will expand at once into great, beautiful and beneficent consequences. Then the work of emancipation may commence, and it will commence, and, with the assistance of the national revenues, half a century will witness the entire, the peaceful and blessed restoration of 2,000,000 of bondmen to all the rights and privileges which are theirs by nature.

We believe that Colonization alone can effect any good in this great cause. The schemes which discountenance it, cannot, as we believe, ever succeed; nor do we think, for the well-being of the Africans, that they should.

STATISTICS OF SLAVERY.—We have not seen the official returns of the census, but from an abstract in the American Almanac, it appears that there are still 37 slaves in New England, viz. 14 in Rhode Island, and 23 in Connecticut. *Forty-six* slaves are put down to the State of New York. Now we had supposed that slavery was entirely abolished in this State, from and after the Fourth of July, 1827. It is true the children of slaves were still to remain in the employ of their former owners to a certain age, "in the same manner as if they had been bound to service by the overseers of the poor." Those born prior to the 1st of April, 1817, were to remain in this condition until the age of 28 in males, and until 25 in females. Those born after that date were to continue servants until the age of 21, and no longer. Hence it follows that there will be no "servants" in this State, arising from the former relations of master and slave, after the 31st of March, 1845. There are no *slaves* now; or if there are, we should be glad to know how the fact is explained.

But supposing, at the moment, that 46 slaves are rightly put down to the credit or discredit of New York, then the number of slaves in New England and New York, with a joint population of 3,868,119, is 83. Adding 2,246 for New Jersey, 386 for Pennsylvania, 746 for Illinois, and 27 for Michigan, we have a total of 3688 slaves only, in the entire country North of Delaware, Maryland, and the river Ohio. The number of States embraced in this district is twelve, and one Territory. Number of inhabitants, 7,004,666; or a majority of the whole population of the United States. In 1820 the number of slaves in the same district was 15,633. Decrease in ten years, by legislation or otherwise, 15,559. The only State within its limits, where the number of slaves has increased during the same period, is Pennsylvania, which has received an accession of 175, and at present has a total of 386. Our good friends the Quakers must look to this business a little. New Jersey has decreased from 7,557 to 2,446; New York from 19,088 to 46, or as we say, to 0; Connecticut from 97 to 23; Rhode Island from 45 to 14; Indiana from 190 to 0; Illinois from 917 to 746. The States which are at present free from the curse of slavery, are Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, New York, Ohio, and Indiana; two more than in 1820. It is high time that all the States we have mentioned, should follow the same example; always taking care to make compensation for individual losses.

Turn we now to the remaining portion of the United States. The present number of slaves in Delaware is 3,115, being a decrease of 1,204 since 1820. In Maryland, 162,573; being a decrease of 4,520 during the same period. In 1810, the number of slaves in Maryland was 111,302; or 8,674 more than it is at present. In the district of Columbia the number of slaves in 1820 was 6,477. Present number, 6,056. Decrease, 321. In all the other States and Territories there has been a decided increase, as will be seen by the following schedule:

	No. of slaves in 1820	1830	Increase.
Virginia,	425,153	469,724	44,571
North Carolina,	295,017	246,462	41,445
South Carolina,	258,475	315,365	56,890
Georgia,	149,656	217,470	67,814
Alabama,	41,879	117,294	75,415
Mississippi,	32,814	65,639	32,845
Louisiana,	69,664	109,631	40,567
Tennessee,	89,107	142,382	62,275
Kentucky,	120,732	165,350	44,618
Missouri,	10,222	24,990	14,768
Florida,	unknown	15,510	say 10,000
Arkansas,	1,617	4,573	2,961
Total,	1,594,736	1,894,415	494,169

Hence it appears that the whole increase of slave population in the United States from 1820 to 1830, (except 175 in Pennsylvania,) has accrued in ten States and two Territories, and amounts to 494,169; being an accession of more than one third to the original number.* If from 494,169 we deduct the decrease in other portions of the Union, amounting to 21,678, we have a nett increase, throughout the United States, of 472,491. The whole number in 1820 was 1,531,346:—consequently the present number is 2,003,837, out of a total population of 22,856,167.—The increase from 1810 to 1820 was 30,982.—*Journal of Commerce.*

FOURTH OF JULY.—The proposition thus to link together American Independence and the African Colonization Society, had it come from any other than American citizens themselves, would have looked like the sarcasm of a cynic or the jesting of a wag. As it is, there is something very noble in it; thus to look fairly in the face what must be considered an occasion of deep national humiliation; voluntarily to bring it out of the back ground, where national pride would throw it, that all might see, in the strong light of contrast, the crying evil, to humble themselves before it, and to resolve to spare no pains and sacrifices to rid their country of it. American Christians, this is noble, and well worthy of your praise, which is in all the churches in Christendom.

[*London World.*]

* We have not the means of knowing the rate of increase among the white population of those States, in comparison with the slaves, but taking the whole population in the aggregate, the increase from 1820 to 1830 was as 100 to 133, while the increase of slaves was as 100 to 136 nearly. Hence it is clear that the slaves are increasing in those States much more rapidly in the rapid rate than the whites.

VERMONT SLAVERY CONVENTIONAL SOCIETY.—This Institution held its annual meeting at Montpelier, on the 12th of October. The following, among other resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That the President be requested as early as the 1st June next, to issue a Circular to all the Societies within the State, requesting them to take up a collection for the Society, on some Sabbath before the Fourth of July.

The collections of this Society during the last year, appear to have amounted to \$25,20.—

The following is the list of Officers for the ensuing year:—

President.

Hon. ELIJAH PAYNE, Williamstown,

Vice Presidents.

Hon. HORATIO SAWYOR, W. Lebanon,

Hon. SAMUEL PRINCESS, Montpelier,

Ministers.

Hon. PINEAS SWIFT, St. Albans	Rev. ABRAHAM CHANDLER, Hardwick,
Rev. WILLIAM CHILDE, Pittsfield,	JOH. MANNING, Esq. Andover,
Hon. RICH. SKINNER, Manchester,	Hon. PHINEAS WHITR, Putney,
Rev. JESSE'S W. BENSON, Barre,	Rev. CALVIN YALE, Charlotte,
Hon. D. AZRO A. BROWN, Chelsea,	Hon. JAMES BROWN, Walden,
Hon. ISRAEL P. DANA, Danville,	WILLIS LYMAN, Esq.

DANIEL BALDWIN, Esq. Montpelier, *Treasurer.*

Hon. JOSHUA HOWES, Montpelier, *Tutor.*

Rev. CHRISTIAN WILBUR, Montpelier, *Secretary.*

CAPRAIA.—Mr. Kay, of the Wesleyan Mission to South Africa, after mentioning the baptism of several natives at Butterworth, says:—

Three of the persons (one man and two women) baptised on this occasion belong to the class of people to whom the Caffres have given the name of Amadanga, because poor and poor indeed they are; for excepting those who have become resident on the Mission stations, few, if any of them can command any kind of property that can be called their own. Most of them are the complete vessels of those who may entertain them, and to this state of servile subjection they submit, for the sake of a mere subsistence. They are, in short, strangers in a strange country, having for years been beaten about by the energy, and the perpetual wars of the interior. Ask them respecting their own land, and the place of their nativity, and they almost invariably reply, "Far, far, far." That unprecedented numbers of these destitute exiles should have been Eternally driven into this quarter, by a train of uncontrolled circumstances, at the very time when Christianity was beginning to stand in the Land, and when the gospel was pushing its way onward, as it met them, that a strange variety of christians should have perpetually scattered over such numerous groups of them in different parts of the country, and that increasing numbers are now to be found in all the villages of every Mission village in Capraria, are facts of the most striking kind. In fact too, in which not only the Missionaries, but even the professedly unconvinced, are trained to recognise the hand and providence of the Great High Heavens. But this is not all. They are not merely thrown upon the range of the army operations; but, by a distin-

guished and remarkable readiness, both to hear and to receive the gospel, they are obviously becoming special objects of Missionary attention. Although equally, if not more superstitious than the Caffre, in general they appear to be much less influenced by that sceptical spirit which he so frequently manifests. It is clear that Jehovah, according to one of their own significant figures of speech, is placing them "under the Missionary's wing." Our stations are evidently becoming their asylums; and I verily believe that the period is not far distant when many of them will be added unto the church of our God.

Whilst I reminded the candidates, when standing before the congregation, of the goodness and mercy of God, who had brought them out of a distant land, a land of total darkness, who had preserved them in the desert, and kept them alive amongst the dead, who had prevented their falling a prey to the enemy, or perishing in the field, and who had, at length brought them to his 'tabernacle and to his holy hill,' the tears trickled down their sable cheeks, and the whole assembly was deeply affected. The most distinguished individual amongst them was the son of an Amazizza Chief; and a person who would have become a powerful ruler in that tribe, had it not, like many others, been dispersed, and in a great measure destroyed, by the invaders.



PROPOSAL TO THE BENEVOLENT IN LARGE CITIES.

The Managers of the Colonization Society have transmitted to their Auxiliaries in our large cities the following resolutions and address.

Resolved, That a vigorous, general subscription in aid of the Colonization of the free people of color in Africa, be attempted, in the large towns of the United States, by a personal call on all their citizens in circumstances justifying their contribution.

Resolved, That the Auxiliary Societies in the cities of Boston, New York, Albany, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Richmond, be requested to carry this measure into effect in their respective cities.

ADDRESS.

AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY, {
WASHINGTON, 17th Nov. 1831. }

Dear Citizens: We have reached a crisis deeply momentous to the colonization of free people of color in Africa. Hitherto, owing to the supineness of the whites, the importance of this subject has not been adequately appreciated by them, while the people of color have too generally considered the scheme as of equivocal benefit to them. Recent events have presented these points in their true lights, and an almost universal conviction now prevails, that without the most strenuous efforts, the late afflicting scenes, flagrant and calamitous as they are, will be followed by events still more appalling. The free people of color have awokened from their slumber to a keen sense of their situation, and are rea-

dy, in large numbers, to emigrate to the Colony of Liberia. Applications to this end are made to the Board of Managers from various parts of the Union. It is the desire of the Board to seize this propitious moment. So far as their means admit, they have arranged the fitting out of expeditions, one from New York, one from Baltimore, two from Norfolk, and one from New Orleans. These will more than absorb all their funds.—With sufficient means they could now transport more than one thousand emigrants, who have announced their readiness to depart. On you, fellow-citizens, it rests to decide whether these favorable circumstances shall be rendered subservient to the holy cause in which we are engaged. The interesting statistical information just received from our agents, demonstrates the general health of the Colony, and that all it needs to attain dignity and enlarged utility is an accession of numbers.

To obtain the means of realizing these objects, you will be waited upon by authorized agents of the Board of Managers, when every one is respectfully requested to contribute according to his means. Many from the abundance of their resources, will, it is not doubted, signalize their zeal by liberal and munificent aids; but it is from the aggregate amount composed of the moderate contributions of those in the middle walks of life, that the most decided results may be expected. If every man in the United States contribute, however small the sum, according to his means, our best hopes will be fulfilled.



A Good Plan.

A writer in the Southern Religious Telegraph makes the following suggestions to the people of Virginia.

"I would therefore propose that all persons friendly to the design and operations of the Colonization Society, meet at the Court House in each county on their respective Court days.—Say November Court in all counties when it occurs, after the 15th of the month, and all others, December Court.

"The subscription papers be then and there circulated for the purpose of increasing the funds of the Society, so that it shall be able to fit out another vessel from the shores of Virginia early in the ensuing winter.

"And that some person be designated by those convened in each county, who shall immediately devote himself to the business of an agent in behalf of said society, within the limits of his own county. That it shall be his duty to explore it *thoroughly*, and present the subject *fairly* before his fellow-citizens, that they may thereby be made acquainted with the plans and operations of the Society, and a convenient opportunity afforded them of forwarding whatever they may be disposed to contribute, directly to the treasury of the society.

"that all monies thus collected by the several agents be immediately transmitted to the Treasurer either of the State or Parent Society."

"I have been induced to submit the foregoing plan, because it seems to me, to embrace a system, by which *much* can be done, by the *union of small efforts* on the part of each county."

Departure of the James Perkins.

This fine Ship sailed from Norfolk on the 9th instant, with 329 emigrants. These emigrants have been highly recommended for intelligence, good morals, and industrious habits. The vessel affords them the most ample accommodations; they take with them, liberal supplies, and are represented as having departed in good health, with all matters arranged for their comfort on the voyage, and with high hopes of realizing in Africa, blessings which in this country could not be theirs. Most of these emigrants are from the lower part of Virginia, and a very large proportion from Southampton county. The Agent of the Society, Mr. John McPhail, has devoted himself with great zeal and energy to the fitting out of this vessel, and for his efforts on this, as on various former occasions, merits the thanks of all the friends of Africa. We are informed that if the Society had the means, another expedition, equal in number to that by the James Perkins, and in character, to any which the State of Virginia could furnish, might be fitted out next month. This fact must appeal to all the friends of our country and of Africa.

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Annual Meeting of the Society.

The Annual Meeting of the Colonial Colonization Society will be held in this City on the third Monday of January next. Auxiliary Societies are invited to send delegates to this meeting. The increasing interest felt in the object of the Institution, and the prospect of more extended operations, render it desirable that the friends of the Society from different sections of the country should come together, and give the aid of their united counsels.

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A remittance of £1522 has just been received by the Pennsylvania Auxiliary of the American Colonization Society, from Mr. Elliot Cresson, an Agent of the Society, in England.

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N. B.—Owing to the absence of the Treasurer, we are obliged to postpone publishing our monthly list of contributions.

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ERRATA.—In the July No. page 160, for “Dr. C. B. Massour,” read Dr. C. B. Mezoun; for “Mrs. Agnes Lellis,” read Mrs. Agnes Sellers; and for “Rev. Isaac V. Enoch,” read Rev. Isaac F. Enoch.

